

IN THE SPECIFICATION AMEND

Please delete the paragraph at Page 5, Line 23, beginning with "Surface 15", and insert:

- - Surface 15 of blade portion 12 which surrounds shock-absorbing elements 16 is further provided with a rough surface finish adapted to enhance the friction between blade portion 12 and a puck thereby enhancing the gripping of blade portion 12 to the puck and improving the puck handling quality of blade 10.

The outer layer is molded to define a rough surface finish on at least a portion of surface 15 of blade portion 12. As best shown in Figures 3 and 3A, preferably, the rough surface finish is a diamond grit texture 31 projecting distance D in the range of 0.005 to 1 mm and preferably about 0.02 to 0.8mm. Advantageously, the diamond grit texture or coarse texture is more pronounced at the heel 32 and toe 34 of blade portion 12 and marginally less pronounced in the midsection of blade portion 12. Diamond grit texture 31 typically projects about 0.05mm at the heel 32 and toe 34 and about 0.025 in the midsection of blade portion 12. Preferably, at least the bottom portion of blade portion 12 includes diamond grit texture 31 from the ice contacting edge 19 to the